

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Harris on 6-8-10.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly, comprising:
 - a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly;
 - an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the location information to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay;
 - a processing unit that provides messages to the L-band transceiver and updates a display associated with the ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module; and
 - a Faraday cage that encloses the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module to reduce electromagnetic interference with the L-band transceiver and the global positioning module, the Faraday cage comprising a back plate of the processing unit that forms one wall of the Faraday cage and a metallic enclosure that encloses the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module and being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the processing unit, the Faraday cage being mounted to a back of the processing unit.

2. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 1, the processing unit comprising a system memory that contains geographic information concerning an area of interest.
3. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 2, the system memory comprising at least one flash memory card.
4. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising an input/output board that regulates power and logic connections between the processing unit and the L-band transceiver.
5. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 1, the display associated with the processing unit being a touchscreen display.
6. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising a single, detachable antenna that can be operatively connected to the ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly by a user to facilitate the transmission and reception of messages by the L-band transceiver and reception of data at the global positioning module.
7. (Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 6, the antenna comprising a quadrifilar helix antenna.
- 8-26. (Cancelled).
27. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim [[26]] 1, wherein the back plate includes at least one opening to admit one or more data communication connections and a power supply cable between a digital board and the processing unit, the digital board residing in the Faraday cage and having control circuitry for controlling the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module.

28. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim [[27]] 1, wherein the L-band transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

29. (Currently Amended): A portable communications system, comprising:
a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the ~~tablet computer assembly~~ portable communications assembly;

a transceiver that broadcasts the location information directly to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay;

a ~~tablet~~ computer, operatively connected to the transceiver and the global positioning module through at least one aperture in a back plate of the ~~tablet~~ computer, that provides messages to the transceiver and updates a display associated with the ~~tablet~~ computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module; and

a Faraday cage that encloses the transceiver and the global positioning system module to reduce electromagnetic interference, the Faraday cage comprising the back plate of the ~~tablet~~ computer that forms one wall of the Faraday cage and a metallic enclosure that encloses the transceiver and the global positioning system module and forms a back of the ~~tablet~~ computer, the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the ~~tablet~~ computer.

30. (Previously Presented) The portable communications system of claim 29, further comprising an antenna operatively connected to the transceiver and the global positioning module that facilitates the transmission and reception of messages by the transceiver and reception of data at the global positioning module.

31. (Previously Presented) The portable communications system of claim 29, wherein the antenna comprises a detachable quadrifilar helix antenna.

32. (Previously Presented) The portable communications system of claim 29, wherein the transceiver comprises an L-band transceiver.

33. (Previously Presented) The portable communications system of claim 32, wherein the transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

34. (Currently Amended): A ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly, comprising:
a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly;
an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the location information to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay;-
a processing unit that provides messages to the L-band transceiver and updates a display associated with the ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly according to the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module;
a Faraday cage that encloses the L-band transceiver to reduce electromagnetic interference, the Faraday cage comprising a metallic enclosure that encloses the L-band transceiver, with a back plate of the processing unit forming one wall of the metallic enclosure and the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the processing unit; and
a single, detachable antenna operatively connected to the L-band transceiver and the global positioning module that facilitates the transmission and reception of messages by the L-band transceiver and reception of data at the global positioning module.

35. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim 34, the antenna comprising a detachable quadrifilar helix antenna.

36-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended): The ~~tablet~~ portable computer assembly of claim [[38]] 34, wherein the L-band transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN J. BROADHEAD whose telephone number is (571)272-6957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi Tran can be reached on 571-272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/B. J. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 3664

/KHOI TRAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3664